

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 121558Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T RABAT 5991

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR UNGA MO SP SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: KING HASSAN'S REACTION TO FOURTH
COMMITTEE VOTE

1. SUMMARY: IN OUR MEETING DEC 11, KING SAW US VOTE
ON SAHARA ISSUE IN HIGHLY FAVORABLE LIGHT. HE REITERATED
MOROCCAN READINESS TO ARRIVE AT SAHARA SOLUTION SATISFYING
SPANISH INTERESTS AND HOPED FOR CLOSE SPANISH-MOROCCAN
RELATIONS ACROSS THE BOARD. OUR SAHARA VOTE SHOULD
HAVE POSITIVE SPILLOVER EFFECT IN OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OUTSET OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HASSAN IN FES
DEC 11, I INFORMED HIM THAT US WAS ABOUT TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF
SAHARA RESOLUTION IN UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE. KING, VISIBLY
DELIGHTED, COMMENTED HE NEVER DOUBTED US WOULD HONOR ITS
COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. SHORTLY THEREAFTER,
KING TOOK CALL IN MY PRESENCE FROM MOROCCAN UN PERMREP
DRISS SLAUI, WHO CONVEYED OUTCOME OF SAHARA VOTE. WHEN
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SLAUI INFORMED KING THAT FRANCE, LIKE US, HAD VOTED

AFFIRMATIVELY, KING EXPRESSED SURPRISED PLEASURE. HE HAD EXPECTED FRENCH ABSTENTION, AND THOUGHT FRANCE MUST HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY US ATTITUDE. HE ALSO ATTRIBUTED SPAIN'S ABSTENTION TO US INFLUENCE.

3. KING ELABORATED THAT MOROCCO HAD EXPECTED RESOLUTION TO PASS BUT HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN QUALITY OF VOTE. OUTCOME HAD DEMONSTRATED WHO MOROCCO'S FRIENDS WERE IN TIME OF NEED, KING UNDERLINED.

4. KING WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT HE REMAINED PUZZLED BY SPANISH RELUCTANCE TO NEGOTIATE ON SAHARA. SPAIN SEEMED TO WANT TO CREATE A "DANZIG". MOROCCO, ON OTHER HAND, WAS READY TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO PRESERVE SPANISH DIG-NITY. SPANIARDS WERE "ARABS WITH BERETS", AND MOROCCO AND SPAIN COULD BOTH BENEFIT GREATLY FROM COOPERATION IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TOURISM AND INDUSTRY. THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD HAD HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF ASSOCIATION, AND MOROCCO WANTED THE CLOSEST OF RELATIONS. IF SPAIN DESIRED A SHARE IN SAHARAN PHOSPHATES OR MILITARY BASES, "TELL ME WHAT THEY WANT", KING ASSERTED.

5. KING SAID THAT SPANIARDS THOUGHT MOROCCAN REGIME NOT STABLE, ASKING RHETORICALLY FOR MY JUDGMENT AFTER A YEAR'S OBSERVATION. I RESPONDED THAT MOROCCO CERTAINLY COMPARED FAVORABLY IN THIS RESPECT WITH MANY OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. KING WENT ON TO WONDER ABOUT DEGREE OF REAL STABILITY UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IN SPAIN, AS WELL AS IN ALGERIA IN LIGHT OF INTERIOR MIN MEDEGHIRI'S DEATH, WHICH LEFT BOUMEDIENE SITTING ON "THREE-LEGGED CHAIR".

6. COMMENT: I HAD ANTICIPATED WARM ATMOSPHERE WOULD PREVAIL IN OUR MEETING, PRESAGED BY KING'S SENDING SPECIAL PLANE TO TRANSPORT ME BETWEEN RABAT AND FES. CORDIALITY OF SESSION EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS THANKS TO US DECISION ON SAHARA, WHICH HAD OBVIOUS STRONG EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON KING, WHO, FOR FIRST TIME, ACCOMPANIED ME FROM MEETING WITH HIS ARM AROUND ME. IN SUM, I FORESEE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE SPILLOVER EFFECT FROM SAHARA VOTE IN OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS.

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